



**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL
April 17, 2020**

Present: John Blevins, Marilyn Blair, Caren Cate, Hugh DesBrisay, Kathleen Hull (member at large-Pastoral Care), Paul Hutchison, Donna MacCandlish, Susan Moore, Heather Parker, Charlie Roden, Gord Thompson, Maggie Wilkinson,
Guests: Christine Lawson, Doug McWhirter, Peter Wilkins

Regrets: Rob Crabtree

The Meeting on Zoom was opened with Prayer by Charlie Roden and Paul Hutchison. Susan welcomed our newest council member Kathleen Hull as member at large.

Priorities:

Covid 19 update

Paul reviewed the processes now instigated to reach the congregation online highlighting worship online, Children's time, Tuesday messages, Prayer circle, zoom group meetings, phone contacts, youth programs, outreach connections with other organizations.

Heather and Donna discussed a new program which matches callers ESG ambassadors with members in order to keep in touch with all members.

Susan reviewed the Flourish House project. Alan Walker is applying for the United Church grant of \$25,000 to assist in continuing aspects of the program.

Financial update – Gord Thompson

The financial picture is much below budget due to church closure, lack of rental, revenue donations being down. Some recovery could be made from the employee/employer plans of the Federal Government. A year-end appeal will be necessary, some of which could go to outreach projects.

Town Hall Meeting April 26, 2020

Susan reviewed the power point presentation for the Town Hall Meeting which will present a hopeful but realistic position.

Driveway Replacement:

John Blevins presented the details of replacing the driveway in the front of the church which is in need of repair.

A motion was made by John Blevins and seconded by Gord Thompson to engage Power Application Group Inc and Stonehenge Construction Inc to remove and replace the ESG front driveway with interlocking pavers. Total cost of the project not to exceed \$50,000 with funding provided from the Property Maintenance Fund, the Operating Reserve Fund or other sources of capital as determined by the Governing Council.

Carried

Nomination Approval of Regional Reps:

Donna MacCandlish moved and Caren Cate seconded that Dan Lang, Penny Wilkins and Peter Wilkins be approved as ESG Regional Representatives. These three Reps will be in addition to Donna Lang, already one of our four Regional Reps.

Carried

Trustees: – Hugh DesBrisay

As most other investment portfolios ESGs investment at down about 12%

Minutes:

Donna MacCandlish moved and Charlie Roden seconded that the minutes of March be approved.

Carried

Paul's update

4 Zoom subscriptions have been purchased for ministers, working groups and meetings.
Student scholarships awarded to 6 students.
Student summer jobs are being investigated.
Summer worship services are being planned.

Paul ended the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting:

- Council meeting, May 19th, 7-9pm via ZOOM
- Council meeting, June 16th, 7-9pm via ZOOM
- Annual Congregational Meeting, October 18, 2020 @noon- 1pm

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary Marilyn Blair

Reports

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Report for April 21st, 2020

Meetings

- Committee met on April 16th to review how services have been going since the shift to on-line video format and to discuss the revised worship plan for the remainder of the year and into the summer.
- Chair Christine Lawson will be looking into UC guidelines for leading Communion remotely with a view to assisting Don and Paul in holding one Communion service before the summer recess – Pentecost Service, May 31st
- Upcoming guest preachers include Rev. Lauren Hodgson on May 3rd and Evan Smith on June 7th; Paul or Don will be in attendance.

Other Updates

- No other updates from the committee at this time.

Outreach Committee Report: April , 2020.

Compassionate Justice:

Compassionate Justice's speaker series has concluded for this year. They will be meeting in the future to discuss plans for next year's programming. Compassionate Justice has made donations to the ESG Thursday Drop In program and to Imagine Canada out of their surplus this year.

Peace with Justice

Meetings have been cancelled. We are exploring ways of sending Amnesty International petitions / letters online through the weekly email.

Thursday Drop in Program

The Drop In program has been suspended due to COVID 19. The last drop in service day was March 12th. We do not anticipate re-opening before September unless there is a surprising change in the COVID situation. To date there have been 347 visits to the program for an average of 13.35 guests per week. Outreach decided to donate 50 grocery vouchers, the remainder of the Presto tickets we had on hand (about 45) , as well as some food from our mini-food bank to Sanctuary Toronto for their program serving people on the street in Toronto. ESG also participated in a North Toronto Cluster effort to collect tents and sleeping bags for Sanctuary Toronto.

Out of the Cold

The March OOTC dinner was cancelled and the program ended for this year due to concerns regarding safety and proper social distancing. Due to clever shopping and some generous donations in kind through this year, OOTC does not require the usual transfer from the ESG Operating accounts in an effort to take some financial pressure off the church at this time.

Good Food Box Program

The Good Food Box program was suspended in March due to COVID 19. We were able to deliver a grocery voucher and some canned goods to our Syrian families in lieu of a food box. However – good news! We will be running the program out of Maggie’s garage instead of ESG in April and are filling a need for some neighbours who are not able to get out to the grocery store easily. We will be delivering 4 boxes of free food to families in need and also delivering some boxes to customers who cannot get out of their home right now. We may be able to offer the program every 2 weeks in the immediate future, depending on demand.

DISMAS

The plan for a barbeque for DISMAS in June is on hold due to COVID. We look forward to continuing our support for this group next year.

Gifts to Agencies

Outreach has decided to make our usual year end donations to agencies at this time when the need is great. We are donating a total of \$4000 to the following agencies: The Massey Centre, TUNM (Toronto Urban Native Ministry), Sistering, Fred Victor Centre, and Street Health. These funds are being taken from our Leave a Lasting Legacy monies rather than a transfer from the ESG Operating accounts in an effort to take some financial pressure off the church at this time.